



# Delaware Early Childhood Council

Meeting Minutes – July 25, 2017

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Nemours Health and Prevention Services

Wells Fargo Tower-8<sup>th</sup> Floor Large Conference Room

2200 Concord Pike, Wilmington, DE 19803

**Council Attendance:** Madeleine Bayard, Rodel Foundation of Delaware; Heidi Beck, Delaware Head Start Association; Martha Buell, DIEEC; Cheryl Clendaniel, The Learning Center; Julie Johnson, Tender Loving Kare Child Care & Learning Centers; Kimberly Krzanowski, Office of Early Learning; Jacqueline Mette, Department of Services for Children, Youth & Their Families; Carrette Monsanto, Family Child Care Provider; Leslie Newman, Children & Families First; Mary Moor, Prevention and Behavioral Health Services; Dr. Michelle Shaivitz, Delaware Association for the Education of Young Children; Betty Gail Timm, Office of Child Care Licensing

**Others in Attendance:** Janice Barlow, Cindy Brown, Tammy Dodd, Ray Fitzgerald, Ed Freel, Carmen Gallagher, Caitlin Gleason, Kim Gomes, Rosanne Griff-Cabelli, Tamira Holloway, Art Jenkins, Andria Keating, Kathy Kelly, Molly Magarik, Trish Moses, Joanna Murzyn, Christine Olley, Tammy Petrowicz, Mollie Poland, Andrea Prettyman, Dr. Tanya Robinson, Lucinda Ross, Faith Scheibe, Pat Scruggs, Marcie Shahan, Jon Sheehan, Michelle Spencer, Kristy Sheffler, Kelly Sherretz, Maria Staman, Janet Umble, Jamie Walko, Leah Woodall, Linda Zankowsky

## **1. Welcome, Call to Order, Old Business**

- Madeleine Bayard welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

## **2. Approval of Minutes**

- The May 10, 2017 meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

## **3. Delaware Early Childhood Council Updated Member List**

- Madeleine, presented on the updated Council Member list, and referenced the DECC Updated Member List document\*, this document gives an overview of all those appointed to the Council, either by appointment or ex-officio affiliation.
- Madeleine introduces Jon Sheehan, Governors Education Policy Advisor
  - John stated that the Governor's office is focused on making sure that early childhood educators have the supports that they need to be successful, and making sure that there is a concerted effort to link the birth-3<sup>rd</sup> grade system for joint professional development.

## **4. Campaign for Grade Level Literacy (GLL) Updates**

- Madeleine Bayard gave updates on the Campaign for Grade Level Literacy on behalf of Michele Taylor.
  - The plan was submitted and it is currently in process, and they are working on a plan for a joint execution.
  - Almost ½ of students are leaving 3<sup>rd</sup> grade behind, and they are working to close that gap.

## 5. Budget Updates

- Madeleine Bayard and Kimberly Krzanowski gave updates on the early learning budget.
- **Star Level Freeze & Tiered reimbursement**
  - In the June 2017 budget negotiations, language was added to the 2018 operating budget, in regards to freezing star levels.
    - Specifically, in House Substitute No. 1 for House Bill No. 275 in Section 333 it states that *“For Fiscal Year 2018, no new program applications will be accepted and all current Delaware Stars for Early Success participants at Star Levels 2, 3 and 4 4 will be held at their current level. Notwithstanding 14 Del C. § 3001 or this Act to the contrary, program expenses 5 may not exceed the appropriated amount. Upon approval by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget 6 and the Controller General, the Secretary of Education may make program changes based on participation rates as 7 reported by the Department of Health and Social Services.”*
  - The Office of Early Learning is deeply concerned, and is working with everyone in the area to try and get answers to the public and providers, as soon as possible.
  - There was a discussion on gathering data to take to the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) for next fiscal year. JFC needs to see solid results on if this program is working, and if it actually has an impact on the kids who are entering into kindergarten.
    - The group agreed to move forward with data collection efforts for FY19.
  - DEAEYC has been receiving a lot of calls in regards to tiered, some of the comments/concerns are below:
    - The Governor’s Office doesn’t understand
    - Providers have a lot of questions
    - Everyone is confused
    - Some centers/programs just started stars and now there is a freeze
    - They have worked for the past year to get to that next star level and now they are unable to move up
  - Stars has also been receiving an influx of phone calls as well, some of the questions/concerns are:
    - Concerns in regards to star level
    - Tiered payments
    - Providers still want to be recognized and acknowledged for the work they are putting in
    - Providers want to be recognized for the work they are doing even if they don’t receive the additional tiered incentive
  - Kim reiterated that we are trying to put together the best solution for the programs moving forward, and we will communicate out updates as we get them.

## 6. Office of Early Learning (OEL) Updates

- **Staffing Updates** – Kimberly Krzanowski, presented on staffing updates within the OEL office, and referenced the Office of Early Learning Staff-Programs 2017 document\*, this document gives an overview of all the full-time employees within the Office of Early Learning, and the current projects they are working on, and programs they support.
- **Community Connections Tour** – Kim and Dr. Bunting will be visiting various star level programs throughout Kent, New Castle & Sussex Counties.
- **W.K. Kellogg Foundation Grant** – OEL has been granted an extension to submit the final grant application, August 4, 2017 is the deadline, more details to come.
- **Early Head Start Child Care Partnership** – The funds for the Early Head Start Grant 2 were received in March, 2017. OEL has started site visits to fill the 72 slots that were granted with the expansion, the 72 slots will be for Kent and Sussex Counties only.

- **Stars Management Committee** – The Stars Management committee will be re-convening this year.
7. **CCDF Updates** – Ray Fitzgerald, Division of Social Services Director presented CCDF updates in Belvie’s absence.
- The visit from the federal partners was held on July 11<sup>th</sup>.
  - **Background Checks** - The extension on background checks was granted until September 30, 2018. New ruling requires for the background checks to be re-submitted every 5 years.
  - **Expulsion & Suspension policy group** – The large group met in April, 2017, they are working on the consumer education website and market rate.
  - There has been a small group that has been working on the suspension & expulsion policy. No new meeting has been planned as of yet.
  - Believe or Takeya can possibly discuss more at the next meeting in regards to CCDF updates.
  - Madeleine requested the Council be involved in the creation of policy and policy decisions within CCDF on an ongoing basis.
8. **Early Transitions from IDEA Part C to Part B** – Cindy Brown presented updates on early childhood transitions from IDEA Part C to Part B and referenced the Indicator 12 presentation power point document\*, this document gives and overview of the transition process from Part C to Part B.
9. **Subcommittee Chair Reports**
- **Early Learning Data & Policy**
    - Workforce survey summary – Caitlin Gleason presented on the Workforce Survey and referenced the Early Childhood Workforce Study Document\*, this document is a 2-page summary of the workforce survey full-report, which is posted on the DOE website, the website can be referenced at: <https://www.doe.k12.de.us/domain/432>.
    - Delaware Early Learner survey update – Caitlin presented on the DE-ELS key findings and referenced the DE-ELS key findings 2016 draft document\* and the 2016 key findings charts\*, these documents give an overview of the full-report, which is posted on the DOE website, the website can be referenced at: <https://www.doe.k12.de.us/domain/432>.
  - **Early Learning Programs and Workforce**
    - Julie Johnson gave an update on the Early Learning Professional Development Strategic Planning Committee for Delaware. The PD committee hasn’t officially met yet, but there will be a full-day meeting tomorrow with the entire committee, which will include the planning committee and advisory group.
  - **Healthy Young Children and Families**
    - The next meeting will be held on September 13, 2017 in Dover.
    - The committee is looking at all children not just the ones who are in child care settings.
    - The committee previously known as EIEIO has changed their name to the Early Childhood Inclusion Committee. This committee consists of various members such as Jamie Walko, public school representatives, Head Start and Parents as Teachers representatives and others.
    - ECCS CoIIN - Public health is working at hospitals in Sussex County with helping to prepare new mothers as they leave the hospital. In New Castle County they are working with the school districts to make the Ages and Stages Questionnaire the preferred tool.
    - Also, working with Nemours to pilot peer coordination.
    - **Home Visiting** - Leslie Newman presented on home visiting and referenced the home visiting referral form document\* & the DHMIC one-page document\*, these documents give and overview of the home visiting referral process and the different types of home visiting programs and the populations they serve.

## **10. Community Updates**

- Allison Constable has left DIEEC and Veronica Commodore, is now the new associate director.
- Maria Staman is the now the T.E.A.C.H Counselor at DEAEYC

## **11. Future Meeting Topics, Additional Items and Close**

- Next meeting is September 27, 2017  
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
University of Delaware – Cooperative Extension Office  
16483 County Seat Highway, Georgetown, DE 19947

Madeleine Bayard adjourned the meeting at 11:10AM

\*All referenced documents are included following the meeting minutes. This is due to the transition of the Delaware Early Childhood Council website over to the Department of Education Office of Early Learning website.